

Listing of Claims:

1. - 37. (canceled)

38. (new) An apparatus for handling pipes, the apparatus comprising
a body having a tapered surface and at least a first slip and a
second slip slidable on the tapered surface,
a slip actuator for setting said at least said first slip and said
second slip,

said first slip and said second slip having interengaging elements
therebetween such that upon actuation of said slip actuator, said first slip is set
and said second slip is set by the interengaging elements transferring the
setting force from the slip actuator through said first slip to said second slip.

1 **39. (new)** The apparatus as claimed in Claim 38 wherein the interengaging
2 elements comprise an upstand and a recess.

1 **40. (new)** The apparatus as claimed in Claim 38 wherein said first and second
2 slips each has a pipe engaging surface, a top, a bottom, a rear face and two sides.

1 **41. (new)** The apparatus as claimed in Claim 40 wherein said interengaging
2 elements are located on or in at least one of said sides.

1 **42. (new)** The apparatus as claimed in Claim 41 wherein the rear face slides
2 along said tapered surface of said body.

1 **43. (new)** The apparatus as claimed in Claim 38, wherein said slip actuator sets
2 said at least first and second slips by moving the at least first and second slips down
3 said tapered surface, wherein the interengaging elements allow lateral movement
4 between the first and second slip.

1 **44. (new)** The apparatus as claimed in Claim 38, wherein the tapered surface
2 comprises at least two tapered surfaces.

1 **45. (new)** The apparatus as claimed in Claim 38, wherein the tapered surface
2 takes the form of a frusto-conical surface.

1 **46. (new)** The apparatus as claimed in Claim 45 wherein the frusto-conical
2 surface is located on a main body and two doors.

1 47. (new) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 46 wherein one of said doors
2 comprises a latch and the other of said doors comprises a catch.

1 48. (new) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 47 wherein the main body
2 subtends substantially one hundred and eighty degrees and each of the doors
3 subtends between seventy-five and ninety degrees.

1 49. (new) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 46 wherein said first slip is
2 located on the tapered surface of said main body and said second slip is located on
3 the tapered surface of one of said doors.

1 50. (new) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 38 further comprising
2 a third slip and a fourth slip slidable on said tapered surface,
3 said apparatus further comprising a further slip actuator for setting
4 said at least third slip and said fourth slip,
5 wherein said third slip and said fourth slip have interengaging
6 elements therebetween such that upon actuation of said slip actuator,
7 said third slip is set and said fourth slip is set by the interengaging
8 elements transferring the setting force from the slip actuator through said third
9 slip to said fourth slip.

1 51. (new) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 38 wherein said slip actuator is
2 hydraulically actuable.

1 52. (new) A method for setting slips in an apparatus for handling pipes, the
2 apparatus for handling pipes comprising a body having a tapered surface and at least
3 a first slip and a second slip slidable on the tapered surface, the apparatus further
4 comprising a slip actuator for setting said at least said first slip and said second slip
5 characterised in that said first slip and said second slip have interengaging elements
6 therebetween such that upon actuation of said slip actuator, said first slip is set and
7 said second slip is set by the interengaging elements transferring the setting force
8 from the slip actuator through said first slip to said second slip, the method comprising
9 the steps of

10 operating the slips actuating mechanism to apply a setting force
11 to the first slip, whereupon the interengagement transfer elements the setting
12 force to the
13 second slip,

14 setting the first and second slips simultaneously.

1 53. (new) An apparatus for handling pipes, the apparatus comprising

2 a body with a tapered surface,
3 a recess in the tapered surface and a pin arranged therein,
4 the apparatus further comprising a slip slideable on the tapered
5 surface, wherein the slip has a lug slideable on said pin, said slip biased by
6 resilient means between said body and said lug to bias said slip into an unset
7 position.

1 54. (new) An apparatus as claimed in any of Claim 53 further comprising
2 a shoulder arranged in the path of action of the resilient means to
3 inhibit clamping of said slip lug between said resilient means and said body.

1 55. (new) The apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 53 further comprising
2 a sleeve about a portion of said pin close to the slip lug,
3 wherein said resilient means surrounds said sleeve.

1 56. (new) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 54 wherein said sleeve is fixed
2 to said shoulder.

1 57. (new) An apparatus as claimed in Claims 53 wherein said body further
2 comprises

3 a body lug,
4 said resilient means biased between said lug slip of said slip and
5 said body lug of said body.

1 58. (new) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 57 wherein said slip comprises
2 a secondary lug arranged below said body lug of the body.

1 59. (new) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 53 wherein said body comprises
2 a ledge against which said slip lug of said slip is biased.

1 60. (new) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 53 wherein said resilient means
2 comprises at least one of the following: pneumatic piston and cylinder, hydraulic
3 piston and cylinder and an accumulator, a coiled spring, Belleville washers, resilient
4 material such as a foam, and a compression spring.

1 61. (new) A method of changing a slip in an apparatus for handling pipes using
2 the apparatus, the apparatus for handling pipe comprising a body with a tapered
3 surface, a recess in the tapered surface and a pin arranged therein, the apparatus
4 further comprising a slip slideable on the tapered surface, wherein the slip has a lug
5 slideable on said pin, said slip biased by resilient means between said body and said
6 lug to bias said slip into an unset position, the method comprising the steps of
7 removing the pin from the body, and

8 moving said slip to slide the slip lug thereof out of the recess in the
9 body of the apparatus.

1 62. (new) A method for indicating slips of an elevator have engaged a pipe, the
2 elevator having a slip actuator for actuating slips to engage a pipe, the slip actuator
3 comprising a hydraulically operated piston and cylinder, the method comprising the
4 steps of

5 applying pressurised hydraulic fluid to the piston in the piston and
6 cylinder to move the piston to move the slips into engagement with a pipe,
7 the piston passing a signal port, upon which pressurized hydraulic
8 fluid communicates with hydraulic fluid in a line connected to the signal port,
9 which indicates to a controller that the slips are actuated.

1 63. (new) The method in accordance with claim 62 wherein the elevator further
2 comprises a door and a latch, the door operated by a hydraulic piston and cylinder, the
3 piston and cylinder having a signal port, the method further comprising the step of

4 applying hydraulic fluid under pressure to the piston and cylinder
5 to move the piston to close the door,

6 whereupon the piston passes the signal port, whereupon hydraulic
7 fluid in a line connected to the signal port is pressurised to initiate activation of
8 the latch.

1 64. (new) The method in accordance with claim 63 wherein the elevator further
2 comprises a hydraulic switch, actuatable upon the latch assuming a closed position,
3 which switch allows hydraulic fluid under pressure to flow therethrough to initiate
4 activation of the slips actuator.

1 65. (new) The method for handling pipe using an elevator having a hydraulic
2 slip actuator for activating slips for engaging a pipe, wherein the elevator further
3 comprises a pilot line, the method comprising the step of

4 applying pressurized hydraulic fluid to the pilot line to activate the
5 slips actuator to disengage the slips.

1 66. (new) An apparatus for handling pipes, the apparatus comprising
2 a body,

3 at least one door and a hydraulic slip actuator for activating at
4 least one slip characterised in that said apparatus further comprises

5 a pilot line and a valve for directing flow of hydraulic fluid
6 into said slip actuator to activate the slips actuator to disengage the

7 slips.

1 67. (new) An apparatus for handling pipes, the apparatus comprising
2 an elevator having a body,
3 at least one ear,
4 a slip actuator for engaging slips with a pipe,
5 a stator attachable to bails of a top drive, and
6 a rotor attached to said at least one ear and drive apparatus for
7 rotating said rotor for tilting said elevator with respect to the stator.

1 68. (new) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 67 wherein the elevator further
2 comprises at least one door.

1 69. (new) A method for handling flush or near flush pipe using an elevator
2 depending from bails of a top drive, the elevator having body and at least one door
3 defining a throat, slips located in the throat and a slip actuator, the method comprising
4 the steps of

5 opening the at least one door of the elevator,
6 tilting the elevator with respect to the bails,
7 placing pipe in a throat of the elevator,
8 closing the doors and activating slips to engage the pipe, and
9 hoisting the elevator to allow the elevator to assume its initial
10 position with a pipe depending therefrom.

1 70. (new) The method in accordance with Claim 69 the elevator further
2 comprising a hydraulically actuable piston and cylinder for facilitating opening of the
3 door, wherein the method further comprises the steps of

4 opening the doors by raising hydraulic pressure in said actuator,
5 the piston passing a signal port,
6 whereupon a signal is sent which initiates a safety valve which
7 allows the elevator to be tilted.